



Notes on
INDIAN TOUR

1937



**With the compliments of the
Chief Guide.**



On Board S. S. "MALOJA."

March 1937.

MY DEAR MRS. CAREY-MORGAN,

I have just sailed away from India, after the most lovely two months' tour, visiting your Guides and Blue Birds.

It had been simply delightful to have at last again this opportunity of seeing so many of them, and I have loved every moment of my stay.

I want to offer to you, as Chief Commissioner, and to every member of the Movement with whom I have come in contact, my grateful thanks for the friendliness that has been shown to me throughout the tour. I have been deeply touched by this and shall never forget all the kindness bestowed upon me.

It has been a great pleasure to meet once more Guides and Guiders whom I have met on previous occasions, to find them carrying on their work with such vigour and success, and it has been delightful to have made so many new friends as well.

In thus sending you my thanks, I want also to offer my cordial congratulations to you, and to all the Leaders of the Movement on the great success that is attending their work. I want to express my heartfelt appreciation of all that they have done in the past, and all that they are doing at the present time, for nobody realises more fully than I do what work is going on behind the scenes.

We all have our part to play, and we all play it I know most gladly; we all love Guiding in itself and for what it can do for India getting our reward for our efforts in seeing them crowned with success.

And there is no doubt at all about the success that is being gained, in spite of the immense difficulties that have to be faced and overcome. I am more than ever alive to these problems that must at times seem almost insurmountable, and I know full well what struggles you must all have, coping with diversity of languages, the securing of funds,

the perpetual change of personnel, the lack of technical knowledge, the shortage of people to act as Guiders, etc., etc. These are all indeed a challenge to our steadfastness of purpose—trials to test our steel—and that these difficulties are being faced, and faced bravely and effectively, is proved by your steady growth of recent years. You and your Commissioners may well feel proud at bringing the good and happyfying influence of Guiding now within the reach of over 40,000 girls.

Numbers are not everything—in fact we should most definitely strive for quality rather than for quantity in our Guides. But numbers are a sign of prosperity, and it is most gratifying that the Movement in India is now on so large a scale.

In many other countries one has seen that the Guide system of training has its own outstanding values for the girls of the different nations of the world, for helping them individually, and for building them up to be the fine women required in their own countries. "Seeing is believing," and I honestly believe that the Guide Movement, as it is being handled by you all at this present time, has a very real mission of its own in India, giving perhaps not so much the verile sturdiness that comes from the North, or the vigorous efficiency of the West, or the material capabilities of the Southern Hemisphere, but bringing its own special message of *Cheerful Happiness*, of *Enjoyable Interests*, and of *United Friendliness* into the lives of the daughters of India.

In the following notes I have outlined the doings of my tour, and some suggestions as a result of it.

I have purposely omitted mention of any names of people because should I mention some I should want to mention all. All will know that their services are appreciated and noted and noticed by me as Chief, as well as by others around them, and it would be invidious to single out personalities. To-day's successes in our Movement have not come in a day. They are the outcomes of much thought and care, of energy and hard work done by pioneers who did their best and then have retired and gone their several ways.

To them our thanks must go for what they did in those earlier days in making the foundations on which we are still building. Others who started long ago are happily with us now—building, striving, giving their valiant services at the present time. We have got still to struggle and strive to make our edifice secure, and whilst being very content with past achievements and proud also of the present, we must for ever keep our eyes looking to the future, and seek for opportunities of furthering the work we love and which we know is more than worth while.

How I wish you could all have been with me throughout the tour, to have seen as I have the eager enthusiasm of the Guides themselves; to have heard the encouragingly good opinions expressed of the Movement by men and women in all walks of life, and to have felt the generous friendly spirit which is so striking a feature amongst all your Guides that I have met.

It has indeed been an inspiration to me to have come into contact with the Guides themselves and with so many members of your splendid team of Guiders throughout India, and with my thanks for their kind welcome I send also my cordial good wishes for all further success with their work.

Yours very sincerely,

of Sir Baden Powell

World Chief Guide.

Report

Bombay.

During my two visits to this Presidency I have been immensely struck by the magnificent growth and steady progress in numbers and organisation, and the fine record of the Guide Movement in Bombay Presidency is well known and must be an encouragement to us all.

In Bombay itself the work is of excellent quality, and it is especially gratifying to know that the Municipal authorities of the City are so fully in sympathy with the work that they encourage to a large extent the formation of Companies and Flocks in the Municipal Schools.

Unfortunately I had no time to visit different centres out in the country, but from all accounts one realises that the Movement has taken a great hold in out-lying districts, and that the village children in large numbers take very readily and easily to the simple and wholesome activities, and find great happiness in the games and new joys which are presented to them.

Bombay is to be warmly congratulated on the very high standard that has been reached. The first pioneers were followed by a well-loved Commissioner who has held the reins now for a longer period than any other Provincial Commissioner in India, and this continuity of good strong exceptional leadership, coupled with the support of a well chosen team, has made Guiding a very successful and inspiring thing. The fact that two Diploma'd Guiders are kept at work the whole time is significant of the work being done, and with the continual increase in numbers as well as the urgent demand for extension, adequate finances are very much needed. Though Guiding itself has nothing to do with money and the raising of it one hopes that more financial support may be forthcoming, as well as more volunteers to give their services.

Engagements prepared for me during my visits consisted of:—

1. *Guide Rally.* Over 2,000 Guides and Rangers were present, the large number naturally being from Bombay

and its environments, though quite a considerable number came from different outlying places as well.

The organisation of the Rally was extraordinarily good; the displays were excellent, and through careful arrangement I was able to inspect all the Guides whilst demonstrations were given in front of the Grand Stand to interest the onlookers. Lady Brabourne came to the Rally in uniform as President, and there was a large attendance of public, so that apart from all the enjoyment that the Guides got from the Rally itself, it was excellent propaganda.

The displays included Lathi practice, a beautiful display of Lezim; a Garba, and a Lamani dance in the costume of wandering tribes of Indian gypsies, as well as a spectacular Ambulance display, a fire lighting competition, delightful team games, and demonstration map of India.

2. *Blue Bird Revels.* These were held in the Municipal School grounds, the school having been specially closed and lent for the occasion in order to accommodate about 100 visiting Guides. There were about 800 Blue Birds present, and I was immensely struck, not only by their enthusiasm and delightful gay spirit, but by the earnest diligence that was being shown by the Blue Birds themselves. Every six of every Flock was busily engaged in doing some special handicraft, threading beads, weaving mats, embroidering, drawing, cutting out paper patterns, modelling plasticine, making garlands, every child happily occupied doing things and taking a pride in her achievements. It was especially interesting to note that the materials used for these handicrafts were old pieces of silver paper, scraps of material, disused bobbins, cardboard cigarette boxes, bits of lufu, sticks, stones, shells, and other odds and ends costing no money. This is itself was a most interesting aspect of the excellent Blue Bird work being done in Bombay.

3. *Provincial office.* I was glad to be able to visit the Bombay Presidency Headquarters, a most excellent well run Office. A kind anonymous donor supplies the rent, and the whole place spoke of business-like methods and efficient administration. I had interviews with Commissioners and others interested in the Movement; and it was a great pleasure to be able to get into such close personal touch

with the inside machinery that makes the Movement literally a *movement* in the Presidency.

4. *Guiders' Garden Party.* This was held at Government House and was a delightful opportunity of meeting my fellow Guiders in an informal way.

5. *Public Meeting.* This was held during my second visit to enable me to speak on the aims and methods of the Movement to a large and friendly audience. His Excellency Lord Brabourne, Chief Scout of the Presidency, presided in spite of many other calls upon his time, expressed his strong appreciation of the value of Scouting and Guiding as an asset in the community.

Delhi.

The Guide work in this Province is naturally limited by its geographical position, and it is also considerably handicapped by the fact that much of the personnel of the Movement migrates to Simla for part of the year. Also, as is the case in other capital cities, the general public is much occupied with official and administration activities. New Delhi is naturally the fountain head of most of the nation-wide movements of India. and many of the people who might otherwise help with Guiding are extremely busy already and live there for brief periods only.

But in spite of this the Guides and Blue Birds are quite up to standard, and though at present they are small in numbers there is every hope of an increase before long, and as more and more Indian women come forward to give their services the work should prosper and extend itself on to a larger scale on the foundations that are already laid,

Plans made for me here included :—

1. *Guide Rally.* This was held in the Purdah Gardens for about 450 Guides and Blue Birds with a representative audience of ladies present.

The Guides did some particularly instructive and nice displays. One District took over a summer house, and in this the Guides were shown doing the work of a town

dwelling house, one "room" being the kitchen with a meal being cooked, another section being the dining-room with a meal being eaten, one section showing the nursery with babies being bathed and fed, and yet another showing small children being taught amused, etc. Such a display is enlightening and most worth while for the audience of mothers and aunts and grandmothers to see.

Other excellent displays showed life in an Indian village and an old Indian legend being depicted in dumb show in several acts. Considerable histrionic talent was shown, and I cannot stress too strongly the value there is in encouraging our Guides to take up this acting and miming. It has the good effect of developing self-control and self-confidence in the individual, it is valuable in getting the girls to learn to act and to take a pride in acting well; and beyond that there is the enormous advantage of fostering their interest in the legends and the stories of past heroes and heroines of India. The more we can encourage this study the better it will be for bringing them to care deeply and with understanding about the past history of their country, coupled with the desire to play their part in ennobling her history in the present and in the future.

I would specially like to compliment the Delhi Guiders and Guides on the Raily, and it must have been an encouragement to them that Her Excellency, Lady Linlithgow, the Patroness for All India, was present to see and to applaud their displays.

2. *A meeting* was held at Viceroy's House for me to address. In asking for these meetings to be arranged my ambition has been to arouse more active interest in the Movement, not only as itself, but as an ally to the education within the Schools. Also I am anxious that it should be known how widely the Movement has spread, and that India is taking her rightful place as a great country in the whole World Movement. It may not be out of place to quote here the following few comparative numbers in countries that are recognised members of the World Association of Guides.

Great Britain	577,996.	Canada	47,941.
U. S. A.	382,971.	India	37,952.
Poland.	60,205.	France.	19,247.

3. *Tea party* for Guiders in the Provincial Commissioner's garden, giving a delightful opportunity for meeting one another personally and having informal talks.

4. *Address at the Lady Hardinge Training College.* Here I spoke mainly on the origin and growth of the Guides in foreign countries. I am hopeful that as a result of some of such meetings that were held during my tour we shall get offers of help from students who may feel the call to service in the Movement when, on the completion of their training courses, they take up their all-important task of education, and see in Guiding a tried tool ready to their hand.

Madras.

I could only spend three days in the Presidency, but during that time I gained a most pleasing impression of the satisfactory state of the Movement there.

To begin with this was almost the only part of India through which I travelled by day as well as by night, and I was delighted indeed to see quite a number of country Guides who assembled in small groups to greet me at stations as I passed by.

It was to me most impressive to see the happy eager faces of these Guides and Blue Birds, coming as they did in their numbers so that we could just have a sight of one another for a few moments only. The few minutes' greeting with smiles, with cheers, with handshakes, with songs, and with gay laughter and waving hands was touching indeed, and it was most encouraging to realise that Guiding is taking such joys as well as high ideals out to these girls in the country districts.

Guiding has been long established in the Madras Presidency, and through the efforts of all the keen workers of past and present, and through having had a Diploma'd Trainer more or less consecutively for many years, the work has developed on a sound footing.

Plans made for my visit included :—

1. *Meetings of Commissioners and Provincial Council Members* for informal discussions.

2. *Guiders' Tea Party* kindly arranged and given in Mrs. King's garden, giving me the opportunity of meeting over 100 Guiders individually and collectively.

3. *Guide Ball*. This is an annual affair for raising funds, and is an excellent scheme. A Ball Committee takes the responsibility for running it, and it not only brings in a very useful contribution to the funds of the Movement, but it also focusses public attention upon it, thus having the added good effect of useful easy propaganda, especially amongst young people.

4. *Rally at Chingleput*. I drove out the 32 miles early one morning for this delightful little gathering of about 200 Guides and Blue Birds, a most enjoyable affair in the Scottish Mission School grounds.

The games and competitions were amusing and original, and were enjoyed by the on-lookers just as much as by the players; and the brown paper parcels made up neatly by the Blue Birds were put to a severe test by being thrown violently about by the Guides in their Team Games:

Here I enrolled the interpreter who had for years been interested as an outside on-looker and now felt drawn to become one of us.

5. *Rally* with about 2,000 Guides and Blue Birds, held in Government House grounds and attended by H. E. Lord Erskine and Lady Marjorie Erskine, the President, and also by members of the Provincial Council and Associations.

It was extremely well organised, and the displays were some of the best I have ever seen. Beautiful South India dances were given, and a first-rate demonstration of Hospital work. This was not of the usual type. High screens were carried on to the ground and set up as a background covered with good Red Cross posters, and then scenes were acted of patients being brought to Hospital and treated for scalds, sprains, etc. The patients' acting was most realistic.

It was very fine also to see a Patrol of Blind Guides from up country taking their part in the Rally, and they gave a display of First Aid which was most effective and good.

6. *Public Meeting* for propaganda purposes. This was held after the Rally, and was attended mainly by those already interested in the Movement, and so may not have been effective from the point of view of interesting more "non-Guide" people. But one never knows what results may come from the effect of the spoken word, and I am hopeful that in due course good may arise from the many meetings of adults that I have had the privilege of addressing on this tour.

Hyderabad.

This was the first Indian State that I had ever visited, and I was very glad indeed to find Guiding on such a good basis, thanks to the approval shown towards it by His Exalted Highness The Nizam, and the full support given by his Government and Educational authorities. This encouragement, and the patronage of H. H. The Princess of Berar and the Princess Niloufer, means a great deal to the Movement, and I was much impressed by its strength and the position it has taken in the State.

Again here we have the services of a whole time Diploma'd Guiding to bring training within the reach of most of the Guiders; and it is very encouraging that plans are now being made and funds are already in hand towards building a substantial State Headquarters on an excellent and very suitable site, with enclosed land all round it for holding camps and Rallies.

My doings here were very limited, and included:—

1. *Guide Rally.* A purdah Rally held in the garden of the Begum Wuli ud Dowlah for about 750 Guides. Some had come quite long distances, travelling in trains for the first time, and all the visiting Guides were accommodated for two nights in the Mahbubia School. The principal of this School has backed up Guiding whole-heartedly from the beginning.

The Rally took the form of a March Past and a full inspection, followed by some excellent displays and a delightful Camp Fire to wind up with. The whole affair was watched by approving ladies of high standing in the State.

2. *Blue Bird Revels.* A particularly well-managed affair with about 800 Blue Birds present, drawn from all sections of the community. The Blue Birds, using each their different languages—Telegu, Kanarese, Urdu, Tamil and English—formed separate rings and danced round singing their Six's Songs in turn.

Mysore State and Bangalore Assigned Tract.

I was so very glad to be able to visit this State, more particularly because of the former slight difficulty that had been caused by the wish to adopt a different Badge from the rest of the Movement in India and throughout the rest of the whole Empire. It was gratifying to find that although this Badge has been adopted the Guides of Mysore count themselves as completely a part of the recognised Movement of All India. They are becoming more organised each year, and now they also have a Headquarters Office of their own—a charming building standing in its own private grounds at Bangalore.

Here, as in Hyderabad, the Reigning House is fully in favour of Guiding and the Yuverani of Mysore not only gives her patronage to the Movement and has taken the title of Chief Guide, but her two elder daughters are Guides and the youngest one is a Blue Bird, all of them appearing on parade at the Rally I attended at Mysore City.

The Movement has hardly extended into the country districts very much as yet, but perhaps it may be possible for this to be done later with the help of the All India Trainer.

In the BANGALORE ASSIGNED TRACT the Movement is going forward on a satisfactory footing, though naturally limited in numbers through geographical and other causes.

My engagements here included :—

1. *Rally* held in Bangalore City for both Mysore State and Bangalore Assigned Tract Guides together.

It was the first time a joint Rally had been planned, and I hope that, having now made the experiment, it will be repeated again and again, for there can be no artificial

barriers between Guides anywhere, and where co-operation can be carried out easily by neighbouring Associations it is most advisable to arrange for joint Rallies, Training, Camps, etc. We can all help each other without dividing lines of boundaries of State and Province, and work in this way as far as possible for the ideal of unity and of friendship within our ranks.

It is not only so important to develop this habit of pulling together for our own mutual advantage, but also this can be the proof that we "practise what we preach," and carry out to the letter the Law that "a Guide is a sister to every other Guide," discountenancing firmly any narrow harmful separatist tendencies which hamper and directly negative our principle of a united sisterhood and united India.

2. *Rally at Mysore City*, for about 350 Guides and Blue Birds. They gave some first rate displays, and were as gay and cheery a little crowd as I have seen anywhere.

Central Provinces.

This Province has its Companies scattered about in the country, and, not having any one very big main centre, it does not run to numbers.

The work is being carried on quietly in out of the way Missions and other Schools, and is very dependent upon the teachers and education authorities. There is here as everywhere the prevalent shortage of Guiders, and owing to great poverty there is considerable difficulty in getting uniform, and even a need to do without emblems and badges to save expense.

In spite of this however, a scheme was carried out this year for Companies to get into touch by post just before Thinking Day with the Guides of a foreign country—each Company to choose a different one if possible—and to send a tiny home-made doll in Indian dress with a message of goodwill to those faraway foreign sister Guides. The scheme was extremely well planned, with a circular letter and pictures of the Guides of other nations being sent to each Company, and this is an admirable way of opening the eyes of the Guides to the size and the meaning and world-wideness of the Movement to which they belong.

The plans for my time here included :—

1. *Rally at Nagpur on Thinking Day*, for about 300 Guides and Blue Birds. It was all well arranged, and good displays were given, one particularly attractive one being done by Blue Birds with bamboo wands decorated with flowers held as arches over their heads. Some excellent Handicrafts were also on show, models of camps, collections of leaves, needlework, Log books, etc.

2. *Meeting at the Women's College*. I was able to address the students, in the hope that a Cadet Company may later be started here. I was glad to find some ex-Guides amongst these, and one hopes that more and more of these may come into the Movement again actively, and *give back to it* something of the good that they have *gained from it* in their earlier days.

3. *Garden Party* given by the Local Guide Association for the Members of the All India General Council.

This was a delightful affair giving an opportunity for personal informal talk with supporters and well wishers, (as well as speeches!)

As on some of the other occasions I was so glad to see the Boy Scouts co-operating with the Guide Association, and in this case they provided a Guard of Honour and gave some good displays.

4. ALL INDIA GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS, February 23rd, 24th, 25th. It was an immense pleasure to be present at all these meetings held this year at Nagpur to share in the discussions, to hear the considered views of all the members on the many interesting points that arose, and I think it is simply splendid that the members come these long distances to join in with the deliberations each year.

Such meetings are of inestimable value in every way, both for the members who come and to the States and Provinces they represent. I feel sure that these annual meetings are the best possible means of keeping the organisation of the Movement throughout India on such a uniform standard, and the personal frequent contact at the top is all important for preserving the statue of the Movement as a sound, friendly, and united body.

5. During my journey out of the Central Provinces I was very glad to have a glimpse of Guides and Blue Birds on the station platforms at Dongargarh, Raipur and Bilaspur. I feel very grateful to all the Heads of Missions and Principals of Colleges, as well as railway officials, who have arranged at various different places for their Guides to come to meet me on trains at odd times of the day.

Bengal.

Though the Christchurch Company at Jubbulpore in the Central Provinces claims to be the first Company to be registered in India, it was from Bengal that all the first efforts for the organisation of Guiding in India emanated.

This very large Province has had its ups and downs, (as others have). The work in Calcutta is on a large scale, even though it has not been possible to extend Guiding very much into the country districts. There have been many changes in the personnel since I was last here in 1921, but there is no doubt that the Association is on a sound footing. It is a sign of security that there is now such an excellent Provincial Office, and a Diploma'd Trainer and her Indian Assistant, and there is a good feeling of stability with the Movement having been in existence here for so many years. Many of the Companies are old established, and a large number of Guides and Rangers seemed to have done long service, and to have gained a fairly high proportion of Proficiency Badges.

One would have liked to see more Indian women taking up the responsibility of Commissionerships as such appointments would all help to reach an ever wider circle of potential Guiders and Guides.

My engagements in Calcutta included:—

1. *Public Meeting in the Town Hall* with a large and attentive audience. This was VERY WELL arranged, not only in itself, but in the wise provision of small leaflets placed on every chair. I venture to reprint these elsewhere in this report, because I think they are so excellent; and I would commend this plan to other places for I am sure it is most worth while that people should have something to

take home with them to read after a meeting of that kind, and such concise and arresting little explanatory pamphlets must do a lot of good.

2. *Guides' Service* held in the Cathedral in Calcutta with about 800 Guides present. This is an annual event, and was beautifully arranged with reverent dignity, and very specially good management and bearing of the Colour Parties.

3. *Guides' Tea Party* in the Provincial Commissioner's garden for about 70 Guiders. and an exceptionally happy, friendly spirit was evident. It was a special pleasure to be able here to enrol our newly appointed President for the Guides of Assam.

4. *Broadcast Talk* for propaganda purposes.

5. *Lunch Party* kindly given by the Provincial President for the members of the Provincial Council.

6. *Guide Pageant* given in the Empire Theatre before His Excellency the Governor of Bengal and a large audience. An extremely good show, with numbers of scenes from history beautifully staged and acted, all done by Guides and organised by the Indian Division Commissioner for Calcutta. It was a tremendous success, and a very real triumph for the organiser, manager and performers alike.

7. *Guide Rally* for about 1,500 Guides and Blue Birds in Belvedere grounds. A most enjoyable happy affair. Actually, I took such a long time inspecting the different groups, that I did not see all the displays that were given. Here I was specially interested to see one Mohammedan Company on parade, and taking part veiled in the whole Rally and March past; and these Guides also gave a good display of cooking in a purdah enclosure. Another first rate display was given of modelling attractive little pots and vases in clay, with quaint patterns and original designs painted on them. Another Company also showed weaving and plaiting rush mats and baskets.

The Rally ended with a most enjoyable Camp Fire—the Guides' enthusiasm ran high, and nearly burst its bonds when the Provincial Commissioner received her well-merited Silver Fish.

8. *Visit to Provincial Office*, and all India Headquarters happily situated in nice rooms in the same building, with plenty of opportunities for interviews and talks.

I was specially glad to have the chance of a talk in company with the Chief Commissioner with Mr. Guru Saday Dutt, the Founder of the Bratachari Movement in Bengal. This is a Movement for men and women, as well as for boys and girls, founded on the lines of the English Folk Dance Society, for the revival of old Bengali dances and songs, for the promotion of Bengal culture, and for advancing ideas of how its inhabitants can work for the good of the Presidency. A great many of the ideas and ideals of the Bratachari Movement are similar to those of the Scouts and Guides, aiming as it does for happiness and an improved citizenship. There is an enrolment ceremony, there are sixteen "vows", seventeen "don'ts", and a good Bratachari member should make a good Guide—and *vice versa*.

It appears to me to be perfectly feasible for Guides to adopt Bratachari activities should they wish to, just as in other countries Guides take up their national Folk Dances or other physical culture, and in no way need we look this other Movement with a feeling of opposition.

It is under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor, and has its own value and mission to fulfil, and it would doubtless be to our advantage to co-operate with any such non-political inter-denominational movement which sets out as its aim "dedication to social service and constructive work, striving towards the development of individual character and organised collective life."

The incorporation of more Indian dances in the Guides' Folk Dance Badge is all a step in the the right direction.

Bihar.

During my one day in Bihar I gained a most pleasing impression of the work being done, and of the cheerful optimistic spirit predominating there.

On the journey from Calcutta to Patna my train was joined by groups of Guides coming from far away places to

be present at the Rally next day, and it was very fine that so many of these Guiders and Guides made great efforts to come to Patna, overcoming the difficulty of expense and time, and travelling, some of them in trains for the first time. The excitement and cheerfulness of these little travellers was quite lovely to see and made one feel that the trouble entailed in their journeyings was fully worth while.

The retiring Provincial Commissioner will be sorely missed, and the District Commissioner as well, but I hope their places may be filled without delay by enthusiastic successors.

1. *Guiders' Meeting.* About 55 of them gathered in the house of the District Commissioner for the informal talk.

2. *Guide Rally* held in Government House garden for about 400 Guides and Blue Birds. This was nicely arranged, and went off splendidly, and it was a real red letter day for the visiting Guides, many of whom had never seen any Guides other than their own companies before. These visiting Guides were accommodated in schools and in the houses of kind friends.

The Rally took the form of first an inspection, then the Blue Birds' welcome, and then displays, ending with a sing-song. A Ranger Company gave an exceptionally good display of almost professional First Aid, this Company having won the St. John Ambulance Shield and making a speciality of this subject. A good display of dancing, another of Camp gadgets, and the amusing antics of a pretence cow, all made the Rally particularly enjoyable for both the performers and the audience of Provincial Council Members, and one feels that the effect of such a cheery gathering must go far, and help for long to keep up the enthusiasm of the Guides who were there, and that they in their turn will infect their comrades with the new zest that they will have gained themselves from such an outing.

United Provinces.

The Guide Movement in this Province has gone through various stages, and though for a time there were superabundant difficulties to face, the work now appears to be on the up-grade.

The Commissioners now in office and the Provincial Council are thoroughly imbued with the spirit and the desire to promote Guiding at its best. It appears that the strong disturbing political feeling of India runs highest in this Province and is bound to have reflex action, even unconsciously, in unexpected ways in the life of the community. This should not really affect Guiding, since all thought of politics and strife is so OUTSIDE our sphere, and one hopes that all Commissioners and Guiders will just forge ahead with calmness and confidence, and continue their good work with all success.

The arrangements for the time of my visit included the following :—

1. *Public Meeting.* His Excellency the Governor took the Chair, the audience was large and most kind and attentive.

2. *Tea Party* for Commissioners and Local Association members.

3. *Meeting of Provincial Council* with interesting discussions on various points.

4. *Rally* held in Government House garden of about 1,000 Guides and Blue Birds. Some came from Cawnpore, Jhansi, Allahabad, etc., and they were a very nice looking lot. Here I saw a plan that was new to me, and invented I believe by the Provincial Commissioner, for getting the Guides to mix with each other. After the inspection and more formal beginning, competitions and games were played in groups, each under a Guider; the Companies were all split up, the Guides going in twos and threes from each Company and meeting in clumps of about twenty according to coloured ribbons distributed at random between them. In this way they were all able to run round and make new friends, and join in nice Guide activities with them. Though this may give more trouble to Guiders, who naturally find it easier to keep their own individual Guides more or less in a bunch together at a Rally, there is no doubt that this system has much to commend it, and most especially at Rallies where Guides come together just for the one occasion from widely scattered areas.

The games arranged were good and varied—Kim's game, tracking, leaf designing, knot tying, paper flower-making, etc., and in the more spectacular displays before the audience a quite attractive display in a Star Formation was given by a Company of "Girl Messenger Guides", a group formed in an American Girls' School, which affiliated with the Guide Movement on the occasion of my last visit to Lucknow in 1921.

Of course I was sorry to find that there is still in the United Provinces another body of girls attached to the Seva Samiti Movement calling themselves Guides but having no connection with the main parent Movement. This is most regrettable; it must be so misleading to the public and to the girls themselves, and it must be a great handicap for them that they should have taken the same name as the recognised world wide movement instead of adopting a distinctive original name of their own.

During my short stay no accurate details of this organisation, no literature, nor names of the personal, were forthcoming, but I understand that the Companies are offshoots of the Seva Samiti Boy Scouts, and that these receive a Government grant in the same way as the parent associations. There does not seem any reason for this separatist Movement since the All India Girl Guide Movement caters for the girls of every religion and castes and class and race of people throughout India. Perhaps in due course some solution may be found to this problem, which tends to make for misunderstanding, and which negatives the ethics and principles of friendship and unity on which the Scout and Guide Movements were founded in 1907.

Punjab.

This Province, though a "late developer" is imitating the "hare and the tortoise" and is now well on its feet, and carries with it the large area of the North West Frontier Province.

Owing to its population being mainly Mohammedan it may perhaps not advance very rapidly as to numbers. But Guiding is well started in Private Schools, Government Schools, and Missions, and has as many mixtures of caste and creed and race within its ranks as any that I have seen.

My engagements here included :—

1. *Rally* held in Government House garden. His Excellency the Governor and Lady Emerson were present, and it was particularly well arranged.

In fact, it was “arranged” very specially, for on the ground was outlined a pattern of the Provincial Badge with Blue Birds forming the five rivers of the Punjab, and the Guides and Rangers standing in rows opposite like the rays of the sun. The Blue Birds in their bright blue jumpers, some Guides in saris and others in the blue jackets and tight white trousers all made a most pleasing picture to start off with, as they sang a specially composed Song of Welcome, all doing this in English, though half of them did not know this language at all.

The Displays were excellent, especially some Indian dancing and the playing of an orchestra on stringed instruments entirely new to me.

Guides taking part in the Rally included some from Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Rawalpindi, Sargodha; and from Lahore itself came Purdah girls from the highest grade schools, Anglo Indians and Hindu Blue Birds, Extension Guides from the C. M. S. Home, and a Borstal Company from the Lahore Gaol.

2. *Lunch Party for Commissioners* given by the Provincial Commissioner.

3. *Visit to the Borstal Company and C. M. S.* These are two of the most unusual Companies that it is possible to see anywhere. The Guides in the Gaol were for the most part “Long Service” prisoners (approximately 15 years.) They put on a perfectly excellent little play, bringing in first aid work, all arranged by themselves for my benefit. full of cleverness and even of humour.

The C. M. S. Company is also most pathetic and exceptional; the ages of its members vary from 11 to 40, with a mixture of normal girls and child widows, the halt, the lame and the blind, girls ravaged and now rescued from further cruelty, little children deserted or turned out from

hovels to starve, Indian Christian orphans left entirely homeless, and girls and young women of low grade mentality.

Funds are short here—and the Home and the Company and its leaders have mainly the courage of lions to keep them going.

4. *Provincial Office.* The present Provincial Office and shop has until now been loaned by the Red Cross Society, but thanks to generous help and skilful management, funds have been obtained and plans are afoot for building a permanent Guide House on an excellent central site in Lahore, with a nice piece of enclosed land all round. This will be invaluable for passing of tests, for the use of purdah companies, for the Guiders' Training, for Patrol Leaders' Camps, and the Provincial Trainer will be able to live in part of the building itself. The Punjab is indeed to be congratulated on having got the money and the place and for taking such an important step in the cementing of the Guide organisation.

5. *Tea Party* for members of Local Associations and others interested, given by the Prime Minister in his garden.

6. *Visit to Gurdaspur and Pathankot.* In the course of a lovely holiday expedition I called in and inspected the Guides and Blue Birds at the Government School at Gurdaspur, and the very charming Company and Flock at the American Mission School at Pathankot. I was particularly struck by the work and the tone of this group, and I enrolled the two American Principals after a charming Camp Fire was over.

Jaipur.

I went unexpectedly to this State for one day, and was very glad just to get in touch with some Guide work going on there. A small Rally was hurriedly arranged for the Guides of Jaipur itself which took place in the Residency garden with about 300 Guides and Blue Birds. I was so surprised and pleased to see so large a number, and some Guiders came from Ajmere.

There is evidently a field for expansion in this State, and it would no doubt be a great advantage if the All India Trainer could visit Rajputana. The need and desire for education is increasing, so that the time seems ripe for Guiding to be more widely introduced, and support would probably be forthcoming from Educational Authorities.

SUGGESTIONS.

Guiders

How I wish that we could double the number of that magnificent band of Guiders who are already giving such devoted service to the children of India. The value of the Movement to the country would increase a hundred-fold could we but recruit more of the young women Indian, European and Anglo-Indian—who *could* help us if they *would*.

Although we feel that we have been handicapped by a shortage of Guiders in the past, we would do well to be optimistic and to leave no stone unturned towards overcoming this difficulty. Our steady increase year by year can lead up to hope with confidence that as the older Guides and Patrol Leaders grow up, trained and imbued with the Guide spirit, these will make a splendid field from which to recruit our future leaders. We are sometimes rather apt when searching for Guiders to aim at getting the most obviously suitable people. Naturally we want these. But we want the others too, and occasionally the most unexpected people turn out to be quite admirable Guiders. The shy and retiring person may, when drawn within our ranks and likewise drawn out of her shell, quite often turn out an excellent leader; and an elderly woman with a young heart can be just as valuable as the "older sister" to her Guides as the younger woman who is nearer to them in age.

Naturally in India, with our predominance of School and Mission Companies, we usually find our Guiders from amongst the staff, but on the other hand we want to spread our net widely to find other workers as well as those already directly absorbed in educational work.

Probably our best recruiters are the Guiders themselves. They know the joy as well as the work entailed,

and if each one of them set herself to draw in one non-Guide friend per year, what a strength we should attain in no time! We do not want to adopt a pleading attitude, nor do we want to draw in anyone against their will. But we might rather point out to them that we "gain as much as we give," that we find in Guiding a friendly comradeship, much of enjoyment and interest, that it is joyful service that we can give through Guiding to our younger sisters, and we should like them to share it with us.

Transfers.

And *a propos* this subject of Guiders, may I stress to you and to all you Guiders the value of far closer attention to "Transfers" for your Guiders and Commissioners. Over and over again on my recent tour I have met "ex-Guides" amongst audiences and onlookers at rallies. These people, on enquiry, have nearly always replied: "Oh yes, I used to be a Guide at—, but I have moved here and have lost touch."

India seems to be filled with a constantly moving population, and this might be a help and not a hindrance to Guiding if "transferring" were punctiliously carried out. A Guide or Guider moving to new home may drift away and out of Guiding if not encouraged to remain in it: but if on arrival at a new town she is immediately welcomed in and a Guide hand of friendship is held out to her, she will at once see that our Guide Movement is in truth a fellowship, and she will be the more willing to continue in our ranks.

Local Associations.

This applies equally to Local Association members.

I had the opportunity on my tour of meeting a fair number of these, and I believe that greater use might be made of this part of the "machinery" of our Movement.

I found, almost without exception, that when I spoke to any individual member she would invariably remark, "I know very little about Guides," or—AND—"I don't do anything very much to help!!" Both these remarks might

have been from extreme modesty and diffidence, but unwittingly they were an indictment against the speaker herself—and her Commissioner!

In some places these Associations are functioning more actively than in others. But it struck me that on the whole these “lay helpers” could with advantage be told and taught a good deal more about the Movement that they are supporting, and that considerable propaganda is needed really within the ranks of our own non-uniformed supporters.

For instance, probably more could be done by these Associations towards finding people to recommend as potential Guiders, and relieving the Commissioner from tackling this onerous task alone.

Actually this one of the special functions of a Local Association, as well as the other duties of supplying the material needs of Companies, getting uniforms made, finding meeting places, obtaining handicraft supplies providing Guide literature, raising funds for Rallies, Camp equipment, and outings, acting as Badge examiners, finding instructors, making liaison with other societies, dealing with municipal, rural and other authorities. etc., etc.

This sounds as if we ask a lot. Perhaps we do. But surely we need a lot if we are to achieve our aim, and I feel sure that just as Local Association Members have helped us in the past, so they will continue to support us in the future as they see ever more and more clearly the good results of Guiding in their neighbourhood. After all, we do not ask anything merely for the glorification of our Movement or for a transient, ephemeral idea.

“The proof of the pudding is in the eating of it.” Guiding has proved its worth, or it would not have been taken up in over thirty countries, nor have a membership of a million and a quarter. If therefore it can be bringing a powerful good influence to this large number of children of many nations, and be helping to fit them for their future, surely we can now feel justified in calling out about it from the housetops. Our only thought is for the good of the girls of to-day and the ultimate good of their citizenship of

to-morrow, and for this reason alone I feel we are justified in urging thinking people to work for us and to serve us, and I feel sure we shall not ask in vain.

Propaganda.

In this same connection of the need for fuller information about our methods and achievements being given to our own people, comes the self-same need for greater publicity to the outside world.

I have already said several times in my addresses in India that "our success is sometimes also our danger." People know vaguely about the Movement and its aims, they merely judge us by what they see, and have not the time to delve into what we are really out for.

Though we are spreading all the time, a large proportion of the general public, and of parents, teachers and pastors, is as yet unaware of the aims, ignorant of the methods, and blind to the great value that Guiding can be for the children under their care.

There are some good publications, such as the World Association's Biennial Report; the quarterly paper "The Council Fire"; the monthly "Indian Guide", and other pamphlets which are enlightening in their setting out of facts and figures of this world Movement of Youth. I wonder if it would not be worth while to collect some of this material to make known to a wider public. If more copies of the "Indian Guide" could be issued and more widely read and translated into the vernacular papers this would doubtless be a considerable advantage. Would it not be possible for Commissioners to approach the editors of the local vernacular papers with a view to instructive articles appearing in their papers (as is done weekly in the Punjab).

The clear statements in some of the Programmes of Rallies I attended were excellent, and the leaflets supplied at the Public Meeting in Calcutta already referred to read as follows:—

I. AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY

Yes, even though you live in Calcutta, there is something you do not know!

IS IT WORTH WHILE? Of course it is, or we should not be so anxious to share it with you.

WHAT CAN THE SECRET BE? Just a bit of Nation-building that is quietly going on in the hidden corners of Calcutta without your being aware of it.

WHO ARE THESE NATION BUILDERS? Why, the Girl Guides of course—those little people you sometimes see moving about in khaki overalls or dark blue saris, with younger sisters in bright blue frocks.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA what a lot of us there are 3,120 in Bengal, and in Calcutta alone 1,066 of whom half are Indian and half European.

A LARGE FAMILY you must admit, and one that needs constant and careful leadership if it is to grow up happy, healthy and helpful. And we are so short of Leaders.

HAS IT EVER STRUCK YOU that YOU are the one we need to help us to carry on this work, and that in that work you will find the secret of happiness—service for others.

A MILLION AND A QUARTER GUIDES! Almost unbelievable, isn't it, but that is our total strength in the World to-day, and India's share is 40,000. We can double this too, if you and others will come and help us.

ISN'T THAT WORTH WHILE? One and a quarter million Guides—plus three and a quarter million Scouts—all working for the common good of mankind, striving to be good citizens, and building up friendships which will make for the peace of the World.

THINK IT OVER and when you have realised the importance of this new discovery perhaps you will come and lend a hand. Remember how much we need your help.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED come and see us at work on March 2nd at Belvedere where the Guides and Blue Birds of Bengal are holding a Provincial Rally in honour of the Chief Guide of the World.

Any further information can be obtained at the Headquarters of the Girl Guide Association, 1, Palace Court, Kyd Street, Calcutta.

II. TEN GOOD REASONS WHY I SHOULD UNDERSTAND AND ENCOURAGE THE SCOUT AND GUIDE MOVEMENTS.

1. BECAUSE they bring happiness to children who enjoy the fun of playing and working in a small group (the patrol System) with other children of the same age as themselves.
2. BECAUSE as members of these Movements children learn discipline without repression. One blast of a whistle silenced 6,000 chattering Guides gathered together in one place, you could have heard a pin drop.
3. BECAUSE as Guides, girls learn to enjoy homecrafts. They learn and practise cookery, child care, needlework, sick nursing, and handicrafts which help to beautify the home.
4. BECAUSE they help to make children healthy, through practice of health rules, games, exercises, walks, pride in health.
5. BECAUSE they awaken interest in and love for nature and the natural world around us, through out-of-door meetings, hikes, picnics, and observation tests.
6. BECAUSE as Scouts and Guides children learn to Be Prepared and resourceful in emergencies, through 1st Aid teaching, surprise tests and patrol competitions.
7. BECAUSE children learn through these Movements to be kind to dumb creatures, through knowledge of natural history, stories of animals, and interest in their needs.
8. BECAUSE children gain an idea of service for others by carrying out the Scout and Guide rule to do a good turn for somebody else every day.

9. BECAUSE Scouts and Guides are patriots. They learn to love their country, to be good citizens, to keep their country's laws, and to try to help their less fortunate neighbours. They learn these things through organised public service and through their laws and promises.
10. BECAUSE through being Scouts and Guides, children are friends with children of other countries, they hear about them and meet them sometimes at Rallies and Camps. In this way they come to understand that small differences do not make friendship impossible, and as world citizens, they become builders of world peace.

Uniform.

I have been very much impressed throughout my tour with the general turn out of all the Guides and Blue Birds. Their uniforms have been consistently smart and tidy and well put on, showing that they take a pride in their uniform. I would like to see gloves and shoes and stockings dispensed with in many cases, and overalls for Guiders substituted for coats and skirts where the climate demands.

Badges.

It is not a criticism, but I feel bound to comment on the small number of 2nd Class and Proficiency Badges ; one does not want to stress overmuch the serious technical side of Guiding, but on the other hand it should be remembered that the Chief Scout invented the badge system for the express purpose of encouraging the taking up of hobbies, and for giving self-confidence, initiative, a desire to excel and the joy of achievement to all, and especially to the more backward girl, who can gain a badge if she tries hard enough just as well as her more capable sister. I am fully aware of all the handicaps and difficulties attending the gaining of Proficiency Badges, but the application required for passing these and the 2nd Class Test can be of untold character training value.

Indianisation.

Here and there I still have come upon the old-fashioned idea that Guiding is a European concern imposed upon

India as an Anglicising influence but I hope that this delusion may fade away quickly and completely before long. The fact that fully 95 per cent. of our members are Indian and Anglo-Indian proves that it is a thoroughly indigenous Movement and discounts such allegations. More Indian leadership at the top, and more translations of Guide literature should greatly facilitate the extension of the Movement in vernacular schools and country districts.

Kindred Societies.

Though we are primarily concerned with the youth of the country I think it is important for us to be in close touch with all movements dealing with women's affairs. If they can be prevailed upon to help us now we shall be the more able to help them later by supplying them with members trained to become the better citizens of a great country. I would like to commend the idea of inviting more members of such adult societies to come on to our Associations, so that they may lend their influence, and at the same time themselves gain closer knowledge of our work. The main movements which come to mind are naturally the Red Cross, the Y. W. C. A. and the Salvation Army, and there must be many other movements, especially for Indian women, whose support would be an advantage to us.

L'Envoi.

And my last words—like my first—must be of warmest commendation.

I leave India impressed beyond measure by the status and strength that the Movement has already attained.

It is doing what it sets out to do, and your Guides and Blue Birds are without a doubt being led by their high-minded Guiders on a splendid upward grade, and are making a real success of their quiet endeavours.

Immense credit is their due. In the course of time India will awaken to the value of this Movement in her midst. Hours are being made the happier, days will be the more profitable, and many lives will be the richer and the fuller through the work and activities of the Guides and the upholding of their highest ideals.

BROADCAST TALK FROM CALCUTTA,
28TH FEBRUARY, 1937.

I am very grateful to the Calcutta Broadcasting Company for allowing me to speak this evening on the subject of the Girl Guide Movement, of which I happen to be the elected Chief.

Though I am talking to an unseen audience, I do not feel as if I were a stranger, because I have a number of friends in this vast country already, as well as over 40,000 of my fellow Guides here in India at this moment.

Besides this, there must be countless thousands of women and girls who have formerly been Guides when they were young; and even yet more thousands of older thinking people who are sympathetic towards our Movement and who care about it and give it their kind encouragement and support.

Guiding was actually founded in Calcutta in about 1912, and in 1921 my husband and I were fortunately able to tour round several Provinces and to see the early development of the scheme at that time.

And now, after 16 years, it is wonderful to pay another visit, and to find the work growing so well in quality and in quantity, with such glowing enthusiasm amongst its members.

It is stirring indeed to see how successfully the Movement is progressing and how it is bringing an influence and an attraction all its own to the young girls of India, just as it does to the girls of every other civilised country of the world.

Together with its counterpart—the Boy Scouts—the Movement is now touching the lives of well over 4 million children in over 40 countries; and it can rightly claim that it is not only bringing wholesome interests and a great deal of happiness within their reach, but it is also—unseen—doing more than is realised, to develop these young people into the Healthy and Happy and Helpful men and women that are needed in every land.

It is the character of the individual that, in the end, forms the character of a whole community, and even of a nation ; and this game of Scouting and Guiding (which was given to youth by my husband,) is devised with the end in view of leading the oncoming generation to fit themselves in body, mind and spirit for playing their part in the spheres in which they live, and to enjoy life to the full in the best way possible.

I am afraid that in this short talk I cannot go into details as to how this ideal is brought about by the various games and activities, by the meetings and outings, and through the contact with their comrades which develops a kindly spirit of friendship. The Boy Scouts' work is perhaps seen more in public, and may be understood more fully, than that of the Girl Guides, whose training is designed for helping them to become the best of daughters, the best of sisters, the best of wives, the best of mothers, and the best of women in their homes.

This may sound and idealistic dream—but it is a dream that has come true for I have been privileged in these last few weeks to travel far, and to see many thousands of Guides and Blue Birds in Bombay, Delhi, Bezwada, Madras, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mysore, and Nagpur—and I go further next week to see yet more of them in Patna, Lucknow, Lahore and Jaipur.

Whilst I have travelled these many miles to see them, the Guides themselves in hundreds, have also travelled many miles from out-lying places—from villages as well as from within the larger towns—they have come together TO SEE AND TO BE SEEN ; and I am personally impressed beyond measure by their enthusiasm, their work, and by the way in which they appear to take the very essence of Guiding into their lives.

I have come to visit them, not as an individual person but more as the representative of those million and a quarter girls of other lands across the seas, of every class and creed and nationality—a million and a quarter girls, uniting in work and in play as a leaven for good in the world.

During the last thirty years the world has been going through troublous times, and we grown-ups (as we get older,)

may well feel anxious about the future, and as to how things will turn out for our children. This state of affairs exists in every country, and thus it is that thinking people are searching round to see what new tools they can find for training their future citizens *and* citizenesses.

The Chief Scout invented this new tool some thirty years ago, and foreign countries in turn saw that they could use it, each in their own way for meeting their own national requirements; and thus it was that the vision of a new era of international understanding was opened to our eyes.

Though the forests of Sweden, amongs the mountains of Switzerland, in the white sunshine of Egypt, amidst the rackety noisy cities of America, across the wide veldt of South Africa, amid the quiet pastures of France, or the isolated islands of the South Seas, I have seen these Guides upholding this high tradition.

Though the Guide Movement's system of Badges they are drawn on to become Proficient in things that will be useful to them and useful to other people; and they see that the arts and crafts of sewing, of cooking, of nursing, of painting and polishing, and singing and dancing, of the care of the home, and the study of health, can all be turned into an interesting adventure. They realise that all they can learn to do (AND TO DO WELL) can be turned to good account, can by taking the Guide promise they pledge themselves to help other people at all times.

With the wearing of similar insignia, and even of similar dress, these Guides are brought into a closer friendly touch, the Guide uniform signifying to its wearer that we are out to serve our fellow humans as best we can together, and that in striving for our ideal of friendship and unity we acknowledge no barriers that harm and hurt and which divide a house against itself.

In Poland the Guides wear a grey uniform; in Hungary it is brown; in Denmark it is green; in Holland it is dark blue; in Brazil they have it white; in Belgium it is fawn—and here in India our Guides wear their saris or their other uniform with the same pride and pleasures because it

is the outward sign of the earnest feeling of kindness and friendship in their hearts. And we grown-ups wear this self-same uniform with the self-same pleasure, because we too share this self-same game of life, whatever our age may be.

The age limits are 8 to 81—so there is room for all of us.

Originally the activities of Scouting and Guiding were designed for boys and girls of 11 years old and onwards; and then it was found that the younger children wanted to belong to the Movement as well. It seemed a pity to deny them the fun and joy of the thing, and so it was felt that if they could not be kept out we could perhaps cater for them in a special way—meeting their needs with more youthful practices, and thus also probably doing greater good in preventing them from drifting and by catching them in a noose of useful endeavour—placing high principles before them, which can be absorbed by the young just as well as by the old!

That was how Wolf Cubs and Blue Birds came into existence. And then with the march of time came a further demand upon our Movement as its members grew up. Filled with a zeal for the cause that they had learned to love, the boys and girls would not leave it behind them. And so for the 17 years old we cater through the older branch of the Movement, known as Rovers and Rangers.

For the older boy Rovering is a new form of adventure. But for the girl this is a time when new work, new responsibilities, new attractions, new problems and new delights are met with at every turn, and as she embarks on this new stage in her life she needs, perhaps more than ever before, the kind and friendly guiding hand of an elder sister.

One other branch of the Guide Movement has an appeal that can never fail, for it deals with the children, who, through no fault of their own, are stricken with illness, with deafness, with blindness, and with physical infirmities that keep them in hospitals and institutions—defrauded from their birthright of bodily health. To hundreds—nay

to thousands—of such children Guiding has come as a solace and a joy. You can be just as good a Guide in bed as when standing upright. You can be just as fine a Guide living in darkness as you can when blessed with sight. You can show that you are a good Guide, if you can take your courage in both hands and put a smile on when you are in pain—in fact you are then the finest kind of Guide in the world. Doctors and nurses, as well as matrons and parents, have seen that Guiding can bring its special message of cheer and hope, its happyfying influence and its ideal of courage and comradeship into these children's lives and if the Guide Movement had only accomplished this small bit alone, it would have been worth its while.

But our Scouts and our Guides are not transformed in one moment into paragons of perfection. We do not wave a magic wand, and see them, as so many cherubims, always perfect—never at fault.

No. They are human children—bless them—with all human frailties, and our process of training is a slow one.

Our Movement is there, as an ally to parents and teachers and all who care for the children of this age. We may not wave a magic wand, but perhaps we have opened a magic door, where boys and girls, through Scouting and Guiding, have discovered much that is wonderful, much that is beautiful, much that is happy; and with the kindly leadership of the splendid men and women who give them this valient service as their Scouters and Guiders, one may hope—and confidently foresee—that these two Movements may achieve what they set out to do, and be an asset of the greatest value to this India that we serve.



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